

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 116443
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:AMB. MARSHALL:SM
APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN
S/S :LMACFARLANE
AF/E:RPOST

-----201417Z 102503 /50

R 201318Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116443

STADIS//////////
EXDIS FROM AMBASSADOR MARSHALL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, KE

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH KENYAN AMBASSADOR JOHN MBOGUA

1. AT LUNCHEON 18TH WITH AMBASSADOR MBOGUA HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR NEW PORT IN KENYA. WHILE EMPHASIZING STRATEGIC REASONS FOR PORT, HE ALSO EMPHASIZED NEED FOR NEW PORT TO ACCOMMODATE ANTICIPATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY AROUND TANA RIVER. I TOLD HIM PRIVATELY THAT IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER IF HE WERE TO DROP THE QUESTION OF STRATEGIC USE FOR NEW PORT AND EMPHASIZE ONLY COMMERCIAL. HE UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED (I THINK) THIS DISTINCTION AND PREFERENTIAL EMPHASIS. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THESE WERE ENTIRELY HIS OWN IDEAS AND HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED WITH NAIROBI. HOWEVER, MBOGUA ALSO FEELS HE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY MILITARY SUPPORT
U.S. MIGHT PROVIDE KENYA IN FUTURE, INCLUDING IN TIME OF
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CRISIS. CONTINUING CONVERSATION ALONG STRICTLY "PRIVATE AND PERSONAL LINE", I SUGGESTED TO MBOGUA THAT WHILE HE SHOULD OF COURSE PURSUE SUBJECTS OF MILITARY/STRATEGIC NATURE WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT, HE SHOULD DO SO SLOWLY AND WITH CAUTION TO AVOID GETTING INTO HOT WATER WITH HIS OWN DECISION MAKERS IN NAIROBI.

2. MBOGUA SAID HE FAVORED RETURN OF WASHINGTON POST'S DAVID OTTOWAY TO NAIROBI, AND ASKED MY ADVICE ON HOW THIS MIGHT BE APPROACHED WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. I SUGGESTED THAT IF POSSIBLE HE SHOULD TAKE ACTION ON A PERSONAL, UNOFFICIAL BASIS. LEADING HIM (BASED ON MY KNOWLEDGE OF GIITHI'S "OFFER"), I ASKED WHETHER HE WAS CLOSE TO ANY KENYAN IN THE PRESS WORLD IN NAIROBI. YES, HE REPLIED: GEORGE GIITHI; BUT THEN ADDED THAT OF COURSE GIITHI HAD RESIGNED. I SUGGESTED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THIS WOULD BE THE BEST APPROACH.

3. ANOTHER MAJOR SUBJECT RAISED BY MBOGUA WAS AGRI-BUSINESS, KNOWING MY INTEREST. WE WILL KEEP CLOSELY IN TOUCH ON THIS SUBJECT AS MBOGUA IS MOST INTERESTED IN ATTRACTING AGRIBUSINESS TO ALL PARTS OF KENYA. HE PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED THE TANA RIVER. CHRISTOPHER

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Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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